

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

December 17, 2013

Over the past several years, Los Angeles County has seen a significant increase in the number of sexually trafficked youth. Sadly, this County is recognized as one of the major hubs for sex trafficking in the State and Nation.

It is sickening to me that minors in this country – some as young as 12 years old – are forcibly coerced and manipulated into selling their bodies for the benefit of their pimps. Untold numbers of these children fall victim to predatory adults who sexually exploit them for commercial gain, and who very often abuse these minors in unspeakably brutal ways. Many of these children are already part of our system – they were abused at home and entered foster care. It is our job to protect them.

After nearly two years of intense effort, I am proud of what Los Angeles County has accomplished in addressing this horrific problem, thanks to the immense efforts of law enforcement, the Probation Department, the Department of Children and Family Services, as well as our community partners. We must continue to shine a light on this travesty to support survivors, prevent this crime and bring those individuals responsible for their abuse and exploitation to justice.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors declares January to be National Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Los Angeles County.

CB:e

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
KNABE	_____